

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2015

Members: Nicole Griffin, David Hummons, Aurea Young, Diane Shewmaker Associate member: Dan Enslow

Staff: Michael Shermis

Call to Order: The meeting began at 5:30 PM

Approval of Minutes: Commission members reviewed the April minutes. David made the motion to approve the minutes. Diane seconded, all approved.

Report from Treasurer: Balance currently \$5422.20.

Old Business: There was no new business.

New Business:

Power of Words: Tri North and Fairview are excited about the Living Legends and March I book discussions. Commission will purchase books for students at the start of the year. The students will have a few weeks to complete their readings before the book discussion takes place. Michael asked that the commission member be present at the event to introduce the Living Legends and facilitate discussion. The book count is as follows: Tri North will need 90 books for their 7<sup>th</sup> graders and Fairview will need 60 books for their 6<sup>th</sup> graders, for a total of 150 books. The estimated cost of the book purchase is between \$900 to \$1200. David suggested fundraising as a means to cut cost of the books. Michael stated there were existing fundraisers in place for the Power of Words event and did not want the Commission to cross their fundraising efforts. Nicole mentioned the order date of the books may come before the next meeting proposed having a vote for the approval of the book purchased via email. David posed a motion to now approve the purchase of the books, March I, up to \$1200. Second by Diane, all approved. If purchase exceeds \$1200, Commission will approve additional cost.

Next Year's MLK Speaker: Top three choices not available; however, all three available and interested in 2017. Ifill suggested another speaker, Janai Nelson, both from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Will update on availability. David expressed his concern as to whether she would be able to make delivery relatable to the intended audience. Suggested requesting a video of Nelson giving a presentation. Michael will follow up for the next meeting and will request video. The floor was open to other suggestions to be submitted before next meeting at the end of June.

2016 MLK Day Event: ITEM 1- Volunteer Ushers. Previously used Yes Club, suggestion was made to continue to use the group. Nicole will reach out to new coordinator and get contact information. ITEM 2- Music Selection: Nicole suggested reaching out to the choirs over the summer to give choirs ample time to prepare. David suggested having a solo vocalist, possibly from the African American Choral Ensemble. Issue being the ensemble does not prepare music pieces until Spring term. Nicole asked about inviting a high school choir; she will check with Sound of the South to see if they can fit MLK event into their calendar. ITEM 3- Video Contest- Nicole asked if committee wanted to continue with the current format due to lack of submissions last year. It was determined there needed to be advance

notice given to the schools and a big push from school administrators early in the summer. The commission would like submission commitments by early Fall. Suggestion was made to center video contest theme around the book, March I.

Bylaws: Commission is required to have bylaws. Michael presented bylaw document to the commission. There was a question on the date of election. Proposed date is December. Members will discuss at next meeting once bylaws have been read over.

Newsletter: Michael asked if he could feature Commission members on the newsletter. Request each member submit a photo, short bio, personal factoid, and reason for joining the commission. Diane will be the first feature.

Name badges: Commission members will receive badges to wear to event.

Liaison Reports:

NAACP: Freedom Fund banquet October 10<sup>th</sup>. Starting committee to improve relationship between police and minority community.

Commission on the Status of Black Males: David stated the commission has decided Minority Health will be the signature focus moving forward.

Announcements: none

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM